

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE 2

18 SEP
1964

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		ROUTING
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TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : HELSINKI

ACTION: SR 7

INFO : WE 6, c1, c1/OPS, c1/IC2, F, VR

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DIR CITE HELS 2681

REDWOOD

REF HELS 2667 (IN 68087)

for Naver
Commission
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17 SEP 64 IN 75963

1. AT INVITATION OF FELIX DMITREYEVICH KARASEV (201-736991), CLASTONBURY AND NEW AMERICAN VICE CONSUL HARRISON SHERWOOD HAD LUNCH WITH KARASEV AND VIKTOR VLADIMIROVICH TARATUNKIN (201-330231) ON 14 SEPT. DATE OBVIOUSLY SET UP TO FEEL OUT SHERWOOD, WHO SPOKE FINNISH WITH TARATUNKIN, THEIR ONLY COMMON LANGUAGE.

2. KARASEV PROPOSED HE AND CLASTONBURY GO ON A "DU" (INFORMAL YOU) BASIS. WE ACCEPTED AND FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH TARATUNKIN. SHERWOOD PROPOSED SIMILAR TREATMENT AND WAS NOT REFUSED THIS "HONOR", ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED SOVTS WERE NOT PREPARED FOR THIS.

3. CLASTONBURY MADE TWO WAGERS ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES WITH ABOVE SOVIETS WHICH WILL NECESSITATE TWO DRINKING PARTIES. A THIRD PARTY IS EXPECTED WITH BIRTH OF TARATUNKIN'S CHILD IN NOVEMBER.

4. KARASEV SAID HE GOING ON HOME LEAVE TO SOCHI FOR ONE MONTH ON 19 SEPT THUS CORROBORATING HIS WIFE'S REMARKS REPORTED IN REF. IN QUIET CONVERSATION, NOT OVERHEARD BY TARATUNKIN, KARASEV STARTED TO TELL US ABOUT HIS FEELINGS ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS. REMARKED THAT

IT WAS UNFORTUNATE TSAR NICHOLAS II COULD NOT KEEP UP WITH TIMES

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AND THEREBY SET RUSSIA BACK FOR MANY YEARS. WE AGREED NICHOLAS HAD BEEN A FOOL, THEREBY REMOVING ANY MONARCHIST CONSIDERATIONS HE MAY HAVE HAD ABOUT US, AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO PROCEED. IN APPRECIATIVE WORDS KARASEV PRAISED AMERICA'S HELP IN THE THIRTIES WHICH PUT, THE USSR ON ITS FEET. HOPED THAT SIMILAR COOPERATION COULD NOW BE ENGINEERED TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR PRESENT DAY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. CONTRARY REMARKS OF MANY PEOPLE, KARASEV SAID, HE REALIZED THEIR AUTO INDUSTRY, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD NOT BEGIN TO COMPETE WITH OURS AND MANY EVERY DAY ITEMS WE ENJOY ARE LUXURIES TO THEM. WISHED NO WAR WOULD COME BETWEEN US SO THEY COULD WORK AT BETTERING THEIR LIVING STANDARD. WE REPLIED WE APPRECIATED HIS VIEWS BUT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY USSR CONTINUES ITS ANTI AMERICAN PROPAGANDA IF THEY TRULY DESIRE OUR SYMPATHY AND HELP. KARASEV SAID THAT THIS NOT TRUE. THEY NOT WAGING PROPAGANDA WAR WITH US. SO ENDED OUR FRAGMENTARY CONVERSATION ON THIS TOPIC.

5. TARATUNKIN BROUGHT UP OUR "PROVOCATION" IN TONKIN BAY.

SHERWOOD OUTLINED OUR POSITION.

6. KARASEV DISCUSSED OSWALD CASE AND ASKED OUR OPINION. WE SAID THAT WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT WOULD SOON BE OUT WITH ALL THE FACTS, BUT PERSONALLY WE HAD SOME RESERVATIONS AS TO WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO OSWALD DURING HIS STAY IN THE USSR. KARASEV CAUGHT THE IMPLICATION AND REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF OSWALD HAD BEEN IN CHINA BUT NOT IN THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID OSWALD HAD ONLY BEEN A DILETTANTE IN MINSK AND APPARENTLY HAD SOME OTHER WOMEN THERE BEFORE ^{E HE MARRIED} ~~3-448ED~~. KARASEV THEN SAID HE COULD NOT HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT RUBY WAS TOOL OF "REACTIONARY FORCES".

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AND COULD NOT SEE HOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR RUBY TO HAVE SHOT OSWALD WITHOUT ASSISTANCE OF SOME U.S. OFFICIALS. WE TRIED DEBUNK THIS IMPRESSION, BUT KARASEV HELD TO HIS VIEWS.

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*INFO ON ACTIVITIES AT PARTY.

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In response to C15B's note I told him
 orally on 18 Sept that I did not feel
 para 6 of 100 75-963 need be sent to
 Commission. ~~Info~~ Info in it
 was in deq & had been publicized

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